

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021007

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

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APPROVED BY:IO/HDC:RANDREW

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R 280233Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOLLOWING BANGKOK 1653 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DEA HQS
HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR JAN 26 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 1653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN SEIZED IN JOINT THAI/HONG KONG POLICE
OPERATION

1. BANGKOK AND HONG KONG POLICE WORKING IN COOPERATION
ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED FOUR
KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN IN BANGKOK ON JANUARY 23. TWO
HONG KONG CHINESE, IDENTIFIED AS MISS LI YI WAN (20) AND
MR. CHIM NIUN (32), AND A THAI, SAMAN SRIPAKUL, WERE
ARRESTED AT THE TROCADERO HOTEL. THEY HAD IN THEIR
POSSESSION FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN AND A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED
SUITCASE, APPARENTLY TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT THE NARCOTICS.
IN A SEPARATE RAID, POLICE ARRESTED A MALAYSIAN, LOO KWAN
KONG, AT THE VICTORY HOTEL. LOO IS ALLEGED TO BE THE MAN
WHO WAS ACTUALLY TO CARRY THE HEROIN TO AMSTERDAM.

2. THE OPERATION WAS CARRIED ON JOINTLY BY THE THAI AND
HONG KONG POLICE. TWO HONG KONG POLICE OFFICIALS CAME
TO BANGKOK EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH INFORMATION ON THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 021007

TRAFFICKING NETWORK. THE HONG KONG POLICE, SUPPORTED

BY THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT, WORKED IN AN UNDERCOVER ROLE TO SNARE THE TRAFFICKERS.

3. THE BANGKOK POST ON JANUARY 26 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE AFP ARTICLE DATED HONG KONG THAT ATTRIBUTED THE SEIZURE TO A "NEW CLIMATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NARCOTICS BUREAUS IN ASIAN COUNTRIES--PARTICULARLY HONG KONG AND THAILAND..." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THIS COOPERATION STEMMED IN PART FROM SEVERAL REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCES, THE LATEST OF WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN JAKARTA LAST NOVEMBER.

4. COMMENT: CONTACTS MADE BETWEEN THAI AND HONG KONG POLICE AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS CERTAINLY PLAYED A ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE JOINT SEIZURE ON JANUARY 23. PETER LAW, COUSELOR FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OPERATION. WE HOPE THIS SUCCESS WILL INITIATE A TREND TOWARDS MORE JOINT OPERATIONS. MASTERS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, HEROIN, DRUG SEIZURES, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE021007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:JJBUCZACKI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760032-0670
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760113/aaaaakqd.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOUR KILOS OF HEROIN SEIZED IN JOINT THAI/HONG KONG POLICE OPERATION
TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006